

LETTER

FROM THE EDITOR

Transitions are never easy. As the democratic transition currently underway in Egypt shows, a transition from one group of leaders to another is never an easy task. If the transition that took place within the ranks of *Papers, Essays and Reviews* could be copied in Cairo, things would be going swimmingly. This semester has seen entirely new leadership, from the Senior Print Editor positions to the Editor in Chief. Although nearly all have editing or management experience, this is the first issue in a position of leadership at PEAR. We hope the sixth issue, like the five before it, provides readers with an array of subjects in international studies that make for very interesting reads.

In our Papers section, the contributions cover a whole host of issues. In the first paper, Karie Cross takes a quantitative look at gender quotas in

Asia, Africa and the Middle East. She finds that quotas do not have a statistically significant effect on labor force participation. She suggests that perhaps quotas have not been appropriately designed or have not been in effect long enough to have the desired effect. The next paper, by Laurens J. Visser, argues that the ability to “speak truth to power” in a way Hans J. Morgenthau had done in the past has been lost in our time. Through a critical re-examination, she shows why a contemporary understanding of Morgenthau’s classical realism is important in the twenty-first century. The third paper, written by John J. Corrigan IV, is timely and appropriate for Korea and the challenges the young democratic republic is facing due to low fertility rates and increasing life expectancy. Despite the many hurdles to overcome, John shows that if certain practical adjustments are made, Korea can continue its economic growth and consolidate its hard-fought-for democracy.

The last two papers deal with the concept of hegemony and foreign direct investment (FDI) in Nigeria. Swargajyoti Gohain argues that political and social processes in India reveal limitations on the application of the hegemony in South Asia. This limitation warrants a “revisit” of a concept so dominant in the academic lexicon. The final paper, by Sunday Iduh, highlights the neglect of Nigeria’s oil industry and the decision by the government to use FDI to address the situation. She argues that given the proper socio-economic environment, FDI can be used as a mechanism to foster economic development.

The Essays section of this issue is made up of pieces related to recent global events. In light of the recent protests on Jeju Island over the construction of a naval base, Jay Haeben’s essay, which makes a connection between Jeju’s unique and tempestuous history as an independent part of Korea, makes for a timely and politically significant read. The second essay, written by Thomas Larsen, recounts the events of the tragic terrorist assault in and around Oslo, Norway earlier this year. This is not only appropriate as a recent event but also of personal significance to the author, who himself hails from Norway. The last essay provides a unique perspective of a language teacher in Morocco. Elisabeth Lefebvre analyzes the culture surrounding the elite few in Morocco attending private schools. Through an interesting mix of interviews and stream of consciousness, she shows that language, as a form of education and identity formation, has failed many of the elite minority in Morocco.

For this issue we have added an Interview section, a new addition to PEAR. For this issue, we interviewed historian and assistant professor of international studies at Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies, Dr. John Delury. In our interview, we discuss China’s role in the region, with

a focus on the way it interacts with regional powers, with a focus on the two Koreas. Also discussed is North Korea, its behavior towards the US, Korea and China, and ways in which the government in Pyongyang can be more effectively engaged. Given the pending power transition in North Korea, this is, like so many of our pieces this issue, a very timely and appropriate read.

The Reviews section offers two very interesting pieces. The first, written by Anna Tolstikova, is a review of Adam Stulberg’s *Well-Oiled Diplomacy: Strategic Manipulation and Russia’s Energy Statecraft in Eurasia*. A very interesting read, especially given Korea’s dealings with Moscow over energy-related policies. Anna finds that although the book does an adequate job in explaining the mechanism through which Russian energy policies are directed towards other countries, it is left wanting in many other areas, such as the role of political leaders. The second review, by Doori C. Song, is an interesting review of Robert Kaplan’s “The Geography of Chinese Power” through the lens of Sun-Tzu’s classic, *The Art of War*. Doori finds that the wisdom of Sun-Tzu is at odds with Kaplan’s proposal for the US to depart from East Asia. This is a good read for those who wish to better understand Sino-American relations in East Asia.

This is my first issue as Editor in Chief. I served as a staff editor last semester before taking the reigns. It has been a joy to work with an excellent and extremely competent staff. I want to extend a special thanks and show of appreciation to my Senior Print Editors John J. Corrigan IV and So Hyun Jeon and the entire editorial staff for all their hard work and dedication. I also thank faculty advisor Professor Matthias Maass and the advisory board for all their help and suggestions. I hope the readers find this issue as interesting and intellectually stimulating as previous ones.



Steven C. Denney
Editor in Chief